Sl. No.	States/UT	No. of Vehicls	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
28.	D & N Haveli	1	4.00
29.	Damn & Diu	0	0.00
30.	Delhi	0	0.00
31.	Lakshadweep	1	4.00
32.	Pondicherry	4	20.00
	TOTAL	1565	6501.51

Issue of wheat and rice to Sikkim for animal feed

1211. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat and rice issued to Sikkim by the FCI or through the PDS as animal-feed during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000; and

(b) what were the issue rates, item-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Feed category foodgrains are not issued under the PDS. No animal-feed category wheat and rice has been issued from FCI to the State of Sikkim during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Storage centres in U.P. for agriculture sector

†1212. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have failed in the field of purchasing and storing the total production of agriculture sector in the country, as a result of which is going waste;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the number of storage-centres established in Uttar Pradesh, which are functioning properly and the product purchased, so far, by Government;

(c) whether it is also a fact that most of Government purchase centres are in the clutches of mediators and the farmers are suffering; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by the Government to prevent it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. The procurement of wheat and rice during the previous season has touched new heights. A quantity of 191.03 lakh tonnes of rice and 206.30 lakh tonnes of wheat was procured during the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS), 2000-2001 and Rabi Marketing Season (RMS), 2001-02 by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the State agencies respectively.

As on 31.12.2001, FCI has storage capacity of 35.66 million tonnes as against the total stocks of 30.35 million tonnes.

(b) The total number of storage centres established in Uttar Pradesh are as under:—

Food Corporation of India	: 243
Uttar Pradesh State Warehousing Corporation	: 93
Central Warehousing Corporation	: 15

However, procurement of foodgrains is done through procurement centres and not through storage centres. The total number of procurement centres opened in Uttar Pradesh during the Rabi and Kharif Marketing Season 2001-02, are 4390 and 1570 respectively.

A quantity of 24.46 lakh MTs of wheat was purchased by the State Government during KMS 2001-2002. As on 11.3.2002, a quantity of 8.97 lakh tonnes of paddy was procured by the State Government in Uttar Pradesh.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. All the foodgrains conforming to FAQ specifications brought by the farmers at puchase centres are procured

by the FCI/State agencies at Minimum Support Price. However, in order to curve the activities of middlemen, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has implemented Token system and 'Jotbahi' system. Payment upto Rs. 5300/- is made by ordinary cheque and payment beyond Rs. 5300/- is made by A/C Payee cheque. In case transaction involves more than Rs. 50,000/-, land sown by the farmers and its production is got authenticated/verified by the District Magistrate.

Identification of BPL families in Punjab

†1213. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have got identified the families living under poverty line in Punjab which are to be included under the targeted Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether each of the family has been provided with a special ration card; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) As reported by the Government of Punjab 4.35 lakh families living below poverty line have been identified to be included under the Targeted Public Distribution System and each of the identified families has been provided with a special ration card in the State.

Physical verfication and audits of godowns of FCI

†1214. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the physical verfication and audit of godowns of

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.